ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

NEW RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

FAYETTEVILLE CHURCH, FAYETTE CO., ALA.,

October 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th, 1886.

OFFICERS:

ELD. J. B. FERGUSON, MODERATOR ..... Samantha, Ala.
J. H. McGUIRE, CLERK and TREASURER. ..... Fayette C. H., Ala.
L. C. SHIRLEY, COR. SECRETARY. ..... Ridge Ala.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
THE ALABAMA BAPTIST PRINT.
1886.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

J. R. Barnett	Samantha, Ala.
J. B. Ferguson	Samantha, Ala.
J. S. Shirley	Fayette C. H., Ala.
W. L. Jones	Fayette C. H., Ala.
D. W. Andrews	Fayette C. H., Ala.
Jonathan Taylor	Ur, Ala.
J. N. Dickenson	Palo, Ala.
G. W. Gravlee	Newtonville, Ala.
W. G. Baker	Willingham, Ala.
Elijah Howell	Kennedy's Station, Ala.
A. M. King	Samantha, Ala.
M. C. Owings	Ur, Ala.
J. E. Cox	Fayette C. H., Ala.
J. B. Huckabee	Fayette C. H., Ala.
J. S. White	Ridge, Ala.

LICENSED MINISTERS.

Frank Wilson	Pilgrim, Ala.
L. C. Shirley	Ridge, Ala.
Joseph Patterson	Ridge, Ala.
M. W. Olive	Ridge, Ala.
James Andrews	Fayette C. H., Ala.
Silas M. Waldrop	Anro, Ala.
Frankland Willis	Fayette C. H., Ala.
Wm. Lawrence	Fayette C. H., Ala.
John A. Graham	Fayette C. H., Ala.
William Blankenship	Ballard, Ala.
W. A. Huckabee	Palo, Ala.
James Dickenson	Fayette C. H., Ala.

NOTE.—The next session of the New River Association will be held with Friendship Baptist Church, ten miles north of Fayette C. H., Ala., on Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1887.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE. 1st. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who on producing their letters, shall take their seats.

ART. 2nd. This Association shall be known by the name of the New River Baptist Association, which shall have the privilege to enact and carry out missionary purposes in all their bearings; yet so as that churches and individual members are left free, and that giving or withholding shall not be a bar to fellowship.

ART. 3rd. To give churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulty; and if the union be broken between any of the sister churches, to enquire into the cause of the breach, and use her best endeavors to remove the difficulty; but if the breach cannot be repaired, to withdraw from any church or churches which she may look upon as being unsound in principle or immoral in practice until the same can be reclaimed.

ART. 4. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association a written communication specifying the names of their delegates, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and deceased since the last session, and each church shall also report to each annual session of the Association the state of their Sabbath Schools and prayer meetings, and the number of ordained ministers and licensed preachers, with their post office, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

ART. 5. Every church in our union shall be entitled to representation in the following manner; Each church shall be entitled to send three delegates and no more. Any church failing to represent herself as above prescribed, shall state her reasons at the next session.

ART. 6. The Association thus formed, a majority of the members present shall choose, by ballot, a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year.

ART. 7. Churches may be admitted into this union, who petition by letter and delegates; and, upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Association, which shall be manifested by the Moderator's giving the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 8. Every query sent up to the Association by any church in the union, shall be read and put to a vote by the Moderator whether it shall be debated; and if there be a majority for it, it shall be taken up and investigated; but if not, it shall be withdrawn, provided always that those be first considered which effect the union of the churches.

ART. 9. Voting shall be confined exclusively to the body in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

ART. 10. The Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all business on hand, except in extraordinary cases

ART. 11. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the session rises.

ART. 12. The Association shall, in all cases, be governed by a majority of the members present.

ART. 13. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any session of the Association, when a majority of its members present shall deem it necessary.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe there is one only living and true God; and three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and that these three are one..

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of human depravity, that it disables man from keeping the Law for life ; and that man's recovery and final salvation depends entirely upon the provision which Christ has made, and offered, upon the condition of faith.

4. We believe in the doctrine of election, through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the Truth.

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the merits of Jesus Christ

6. We believe that saints shall persevere in grace, and not one of them shall finally fall away.

7. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

As for Gospel order : 1. We believe that the visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptised believers, who have gained Christian fellowship with each other, and have given themselves up to the Lord, and one another, and have agreed te keep up a Godly discipline according to the rules of the Gospel.

2. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the church and only law-giver, and that the government is with the body, and is the privilege of each individual ; and that the discipline of the church is intended for the reclaiming of the christian who may be disorderly either in principle or practice, and must be faithfully kept up for God's glory and unity of the churches

3. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and conscientiously do believe the true mode of baptism is immertion.

4. We believe that none have the right to administer the ordinances but ministers of the Gospel, regularly ordained to that office.

5. We believe that none but those regularly baptised have a right to participate in the Lord's Supper.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. To expedite business, committees may be appointed, at the discretion of the Association.

3. The Moderator shall be deemed judge of order and shall have a right to call to order at any time ; and any brother not satisfied with his decision on any point of order, may appeal to the Association, on the same day, but at no other time.

4. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, except withdrawn by him who made it.

5. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided or withdrawn before another shall be offered.

6. Every person who shall speak in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and sball not be interrupted while speaking, unless he departs from the subject, or use words of personal reflection.

7. The Moderator, when addressed for leave to speak shall signify the right of the applicant by naming him or otherwise.

8. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the Association.

9. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

10. Any member wishing to retire, shall obtain permission of the Moderator.

11. The Moderator shall give the casting vote, and shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time.

12. The appellation of Brother shall be used in our address, one to another.

13. The names of Delegates shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

14. Any member violating the above Rules, may be reproved as the Association thinks proper; only on the day the offence shall have occurred.

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MINUTES.

FAYETTE COURT HOUSE, ALABAMA,
SATURDAY, Oct. 9, 1886.

The Sixteenth Annual Session of the New River Baptist Association met pursuant to adjournment on Saturday, October, 9th, 1886, with the Baptist Church at Fayetteville, Alabama, J. B. Ferguson, Moderator of last session presiding as Moderator and J. H. McGuire acting as Clerk.

1. At the hour of 11 o'clock a. m. the exercises were begun by devotional services. Hymn—"Amazing Grace How Sweet the Sound," etc. Scripture Lesson—34th Psalm. Prayer by Moderator. Second Hymn---"Am I a Soldier of the Cross?" etc.

2. Called for letters, whereupon the delegates were enrolled from the letters as they were read by W. F. Kirkland and W. J. Trull, to-wit:

DELEGATES.

1. From Fayetteville Church—B. M. Stillwan, J. C. Yerby, J. H. McGuire.
2. Mt. Joy—A. J. Reeves.
3. Mt. Lebanon—W. F. Baker, J. W. Graham.
4. Harmony Grove—M. C. Bowling, J. M. Span.
5. Pilgrim's Rest—Frank Wilson, W. I. Yerby.
6. Concord—L. C. Shirley, J. S. White.
7. Chapel Htll—G. W. Ashcraft, I. N. Ashcraft.
8. Mt. Pisgah—F. M. Lowrey.
9. Shepherd—G. W. Gravlee. W. W. Gravlee.
10. Rocky Mount—D. W. Andrews.
11. Oak Ridge—No delegate.
12. Shady Grove—Thomas. L. Montgomery.
13. Meadow Branch—W. J. Trull.
14. Arbor Springs—J. B. Ferguson.
15. Mt. Pleasant—D. G. Kirkland, G. H. White, J. A. South.
16. Siloam—J. Taylor, W. F. Kirkland.
17. Mt. Olive—J. S. Shirley, James Dickinson.
18. Pleasant Hill—J. E. Cox, G. W. McGinnis.

19. Friendfhip—J. W. Akins, Wm. Stanley, L. M. Marshal.
20. Friendship (Tuska Co.)—J. P. Watsnn, Ira Collins.
21. Union (Marion Co.)—S. Bobo, W. M. Weeks.
22. Union (Fayette Co) C. J. Nichols, C. J. McCallum.
23. Oak Grove—W. A. Taylor, J. C. Smith, T. A. Roberts.

[NOTE—Many other delegates were actually enrolled, but by order of the Association all who failed to answer to roll call when the Minutes were adopted, were stricken off.] CLERK.

3. Election of officers.

The Association elected, by ballot, the following officers to serve during the next associational year, to-wit: J. B. Ferguson, Moderator; J. H. McGuire, Clerk; L. C. Shirley, Corresponding Secretary.

4. Petitionary churches by letters and delegates received as follows viz:

1. New Hope (Marion Co.)---H. M. Shirey, M. M. Murrah, A. H. Franks.

2. Salem—W. J. Akin, A. N. Reeves.

3. Sipsey Valley—Zack Savage, Thomas Savage, I. M. Whitney.

5. The Association, after prayer by G. W. Gravlee, adjourned for dinner till 3 o'clock p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

6. At 3 o'clock the Association reassembled, and after singing the hymn, "Work for the night is Coming," the Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder J. E. Cox, in the absence of Elder J. B. Huckabee, from the text, "Occupy till I Come," Luke 19:13, which was listened to with deep interest by all present, and greatly edified the people.

7. Appointment of committees:

1st. On Preaching—John A. South, J. H. Newton, Wm. F. Kirkland, J. H. McGuire.

2nd. On Documents—G. W. Gravlee, W. J. Akin, D. G. Kirkland, W. J. Trull.

3rd. On Nominations—L. C. Shirley, Frank Wilson, A. J. Reeves, Wm. F. Baker.

4th. On Finance—Thomas L. Montgomery, M. L. Parks, Thomas Savage.

5th. On Education—J. H. McGuire, J. R. Barnett, J. E. Cox, T. J. Godfrey.

6th. On Temperance—J. E. Cox, Zack Savage, B. M. Stillman.

7th. On Arrangements—D. W. Andrews, W. I. Yerby, J. S. Shirley, A. N. Reeves.

8th. On Literature—G. W. Gravlee, M. C. Bowling, J. R. Barnett, J. Taylor.

CORRESPONDENCE.

8. On motion of Elder J. E. Cox, it was ordered that a delegation of colored brethren from the Canaan Pickensville Colored Baptist Association now in session at Fayette Court House, be admitted into this body for the purpose of making known to us their wants and necessities, which they accordingly afterwards did. [See items 17 and 18.]

9. Received correspondence from—

1. Tuskaloosa Association by her delegates, James White, G. L. Trawick, Mitchell Sudduth, J. E. Wilson, with letter and Minutes.

2. North River Association by her delegates, H. G. Amerson, W. J. Killingsworth, A. A. Smith, J. W. Rogers, with letter and Minutes.

3. Yellow Creek Association by her delegates, Phillip Wood and S. M. Waldrop, with letter and Minutes.

10. On motion, adjourned to meet again at 8:30 o'clock Monday morning.

[NOTE.—On Sunday and Sunday night divine services were held at the Baptist and Methodist Churches, and in the depot school house, which were conducted by our beloved brethren, J. B. Ferguson, J. R. Barnett, J. M. Chism, J. S. Shirley, John W. Rogers, Jonathan Taylor, L. C. Shirley, J. S. White, G. W. Gravlee, A. A. Smith and others, whose earnest and able dispensation of divine truth will be long treasured up by the people of Fayetteville, and the delegates and visiting friends, as a bright spot in their memory. Especially do the members of the Fayetteville church feel gratified to know that our visiting friends and ministers so often made mention of us in their prayers.] CLERK.

MONDAY'S SESSION.

11. Association met pursuant to adjournment, and after devotional exercises, conducted by the Moderator, the Committee on Arrangements submitted the following report,

12. which was read and adopted, to-wit:

Committee on Arrangements report as follows, viz:

1. Return Corresponcence.
2. Read Constitution, articles of faith and rules of decorum.
3. Report of District Meetings.
4. Report on Temperance.
5. Report of Executive Board.
6. Report on Education.
7. Report on Literature.
8. Report on Superanuated Ministers.
9. Report of Treasurer.
10. Appoint Treasurer.
11. Read Corresponding Letter.
12. Report on Finance.
13. Report on Sabbath schools.
14. Report on Nominations.
15. Report on Documents.
16. Miscellaneous Business.

D. W. Andrews, Ch'n.

13. Returned Correspondents

as follows, to wit:

1. To Tuskaloosa Association, to meet in the city of Tuskaloosa on Tuesday after first Sabbath in September, 1887—J. R. Barnett, J. B. Ferguson, D. W. Andrews, G. W. Gravlee, J. E. Cox.

2. To North River Association, to meet in Jasper on Saturday before fourth Sabbath in September, 1887—G. W. Gravlee, D. W. Andrews, I. M. Whitney, W. J. Akin, W. J. Trull, J. H. McGuire.

3. To Yellow Creek Association, to meet at Shiloh, in Lamar county, on Saturday before the first Sabbath October, 1887—J. E. Cox, D. W. Andrews, I. N. Ashcraft, Jonathan Taylor, John A. Souih, W. J. Trull.

4. To Alabama State Convention, to meet at Union Springs on the 15th day of July, 1887—J. E. Cox, J. S. Shirley, G. W. Gravlee, J. H. McGuire, J. B. Ferguson.

14. The Consitution, Articles of Faith, and Rules of Decorum

were read by W. J. Trull as follows, to wit: (See pages 1 and 2.)

District Meetings.

Reports from. read and adopted as follows, viz:

Fayette County, Ala., Sept. 23, 1885.

The First District met with Mt. Pleasant church, and located the next

session of the First District with Arbor Springs, Tuscaloosa county, Ala , Friday before the third Sabbath in September, 1887.

First query—Can a person who has professed the name of Christ be worldly minded, to be opened by Brothers L. C. Shirley and Ira Collins.

Second query—What are we to understand from the 32d verse of the 25th chapter of Matthew. Reads thus: And before him shall be gathered all nations, and he shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats. Elders J. B. Ferguson and Silas White to open the discussion.

Elder J. B. Ferguson to preach the introductory sermon, Elder J. R. Barnett, alternate.

J. R. Barnette, M. D.

J. T. Yerby, Clerk.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Fayette County, Ala., Aug. 20, 1886.

The Second District met with Mt. Pisgah church and located the next session of the district with Harmony Grove church, seventeen miles north of Fayette Court House, in Fayette county, Ala., commencing on Friday before the first Sabbath in September, 1887. Brother Johnathan Taylor to preach the introductorp sermon, Brother J. S. Shirley, alternate.

Question for Saturday morning—Who are the proper subjects for Baptism? Opened by Brother James Dickenson and W. A. Huckabee.

Question for Saturday evening—What is meant by the 12th chapter and 1st verse of Revulations: There appeared a great wonder in Heaven ; a woman clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars. Opened by Eld. J. S. Shirley and William Blankingship.

J. S. Shirley, Moderator.

J. T. Hollingsworth, Clerk.

Temperance

Report read, discussed and adopted as follows, to wit:

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to report that abstinence from things hurtful to the body, mind and oul is on the increase. Thank God! Temperance is on the increase in the church and state. Our churches have not been troubled with intemperance since by law the sale of intoxicants has been prphibited in this county. There is not so much crime and debauchery. When the sale of intoxicants was tolerated by law, there were from 80 to 100 true bills found by our grand jury. Since the Prohibition Act was passed, only 37 bills. There has been an intimation that said Prohibition Act would be repealed. We would suggest that this body osk our Representative to see to it that said Prohibition Act remain unchanged. We furthermore request all the voters of Fayette county to join us in this request to have the Prohibition Act remain in full force and effect.

J. E. Cox, Ch'n.

Oct. 11, 1886.

17. On motion of J. E. Cox, the colored delegates from the Canaan Pickensville Colored Baptist Association, to wit: Elders George W. Grent, W. Brazele and R. D. Anthony, were invited to come forward and address the body with reference to their race, whereupon Bros. Erent and Brazele

came forward in turn, and in the most humble Christian spirit, appealed to the Asfociation and to white brethren generally for religious instruction and for aid to help them along in the divine life. They said their race were seeking light; that they look upon us as their superiors, and stand ready and willing to receive instruction and held. Thereupon,

18. On motion; it was ordered by the Association that during the next year we hold an institute for the benefit of the colored ministers of said colored association; and a committee was then apoointed by the Moderator to confer with said delegates and fix and report suitable time and place for such institute, which committee afterwards submitted the following report, which was adopted, to wit:

We, your committee apointed to confer with the delegation from the colored association as to time and place for holding a Ministers' Institute with an I for the benefit of our colored brethren, would report that the time as ugreed upon begins on Friday before the fourth Sunday in November, 1886, and that the place be Bethabara church, in Yellow Creek Association.

J. E. Cox, Ch'n.

19. Then on motion, the Moderator appointed Elders E. Howell, D. W. Andrews and J. E. Cox to hold said institute.

20. Report on Education.

was read, discussed and adopted as follows, to wit:

Your Committee on Education submit their report, viz:

There has been so much said and written upon this important subject, snd its clalms are so firmly established in the minds of the people that your committee do not expect in this short report to present any new thoughts for your consideration. We desire, however, to bring out more prominently and impress more firmly a few thoughts in this connection that to our minds should be received and acted upon now as affecting our immediate personal interests.

The necessity of giving to our children such literary training as will place them upon a level with others who shall compete with them in the great conflict of life, no one will deny, But as a religious denomination ought we not to occupy higher ground? Does it not behoove us to see to it that the minds and hearts of our youth shall be guided into proper religious channels?

If we concede that morality and religion enter into and are a part of general education, ought we not to guard more carefully the channels of education? Should we not, as far as practicable, at least see to it that our teachers are Christians, and that we patronize, when within our power, no other but religious institutions of learning? Not only so, but if our distinctive religious views count for anything, is it not our duty as Baptists to support and encourage Baptist teachers and Baptist institutions? In this, however, we are often forced to yield to circumstances over which we have no control; but our duty as parents and guardians is not performed if we

fail to impress our distinctive religious principles around our firesides and in our Sabbath schools upon the minds of those who in a few years must represent us in the drama of life, and who, either in honor or dishonor, will hand our names down to posterity.

We note with pleasure that in some sections of our territory the people realize the folly of relying on the six weeks or two months public schools, presided over too frequently by teachers of doubtful character and limited education, and are building up schools of higher grade and longer duration. Among such we call special attention to the one at Fayette Court House, whose elegant building reflects great credit upon the town and community that reared it, and whose well-chosen corps of teachers will no doubt merit the patronage of all. Also the one at Newtonville, whose principal has so firmly stamped character and tone upon the young men of that neighborhood, that its fame, as a school of high order, is no longer confined to the limits of its immediate patronage.

We also point with pride to our denominational colleges, and would urge upon our brethren the importance of sending their sons and daughters, if possible, to complete their educations at these institutions.

For the moral and mental training of our daughters, the Judson, at Marion, and the Alabama Central at Tuskaloosa, rank second to no colleges in the State; and for our boys, an education at the Howard is now regarded as almost indispensible, especially if we would have them deeply schooled in our distinctive denominational principles and practices.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. H. McGuire, Ch'n.

21. On motion of Bro. G. W. Gravlee, the following amounts were subscribed to pay the board of Bro. John W. Graham while attending school during the next associational year, to prepare for the ministry, viz:

G. W. Gravlee	$5 00
J. H. McGuire	5 00
J. R. Barnett	50
S. J. Hagler	50
John A. South	1 00
I. M. Whitney	1 00
J. E. Cox	2 00

22. Missions.

The report of the Executive Board on Mission work was called for, read, discussed and adopted as follows, to wit:

Your Committee composing the Expcutive Board, would report that for want of money very little missionary work has been done. We appointed Rev. J. B. Ferguson to do some work in a destitute region between Arbor Springs and Oregonia churches. Assisted by Eld. J. R. Barnett, he (Bro. Ferguson) has kept up a monthly appointment at White Plains. The result of their work is: Baptisms 4, to be baptised 1, received by letter 1; Cash from Arbor Springs $6.00, Bro. Ferguson's subscription $2.00, total, $8.00.

Bro. C. E. Hash sent to us by the Corresponding Secretary of the State Mission Board, at our request, went to Berry Station, held a meeting of days, organized a church with eleven members, baptised 7, received by letter 2, organized a Sunday school and organized a prayer meeting. We paid him the amount pledged by Fayetteville church. $10.75.

The harvest is great. We have the men and need the means to prosecute the work. God demands our efforts and money. Let us come up to the help of the Lord.

J. E. Cox, Ch'n.

23. The following omounts for State Missions, to be paid to our Mission board, were pledged, viz:

J. H. McGuire	$5 00
Fayetteville Church	5 00
Arbor Springs Church	10 00
Shepherd Church	5 00
Harmony Grove Church	5 00
W. J. Trull	2 50
J. E. Cox	1 00
G. W. McGinnis	2 00
L. C. Shirley	2 50
Chappel Hill	5 00
John A. South	1 00
Jonathan Taylor	1 00
New Hope Church, paid	2 00
J. S. Shirley, paid	1 00
F. M. Lowry, paid	1 00
M. H. Suddoth, paid	50
Total	$49 50

24. On motion, and after prayer, the body adjourned till 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

TUESDAY'S SESSION.

25. Association met pursuant to adjournment, and after devotional exercises conducted by the Moderator, the report of

TREASURER

was called for, read and adopted as follows, to wit:

REPORT OF TREASURER J. H. McGUIRE.

DR.

1885.		
Oct. 11.	To amount for Minutes	$25 15
	To amount for Minits by G. W. Gravlee	1 25
	To amount for Associational purposes	12 20
	To amount for State Missions	12 75
	To amount for Aged and Infirm Ministers	5 00
		$56 35

CR.

Dec. 12,	By amount for printing Minutes	$26 45
	By amount for freight and postage on Minutes	55
	By amount ror State Missions, paid J. E. Cox, Chairman State Mission Board	12 75

By amount for Agen and Infirm Ministers, to J. C. Yerby, Ch'n Board on Aged and Infirm Ministers 5 00
By amount for Compiling Minutes 10 00

$56 35

Respectfully submitted,
J. H. McGuire, Treasurer.

26. The Moderator then appointed J. H. McGuire as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

27. Superanuated Ministers

Report read and adopted as follows, to wit:

RECEIPTS.

Received from Chapel Hill	$3 00
Received from J. H. McGuire, Treasurer	5 00
Received from Mt. Pisgah	3 00
Received from Meadow Branch	5 55
Received from Mt. Olive Church	4 25
Received from Mt. Lebanon Church	5 95
Received from Friendship	2 25
Received from Arbor Springs	10 00
Oct. 12, received from Shady Grove Church	1 50
Total	$40 50

DISBURSEMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

To Rev. A. M. King	$18 50	
To Rev. D. W. Andrews	14 00	
To Brother Owens	1 00	
Total amount paid out		$33 50
Cash on hand		$6 45

Respectfully submitted,
J. C. Yerby, Ch'n.

28. The following contributions in cash and pledges were then taken for aged and infirm ministers, to wit.:

J. H. McGuire, sub	$5 00
Ira W. Moore, paid	3 20
John Hallingsworth, paid	1 00
D. G. Kirklond, paid	50
I. N. Ashcraft, paid	1 00
W. J. Trull, paid	1 00
B. M. Stillman, sub	2 00
G. H. White, paid	50
J. P. Watson, paid	50
J. W. Akin, paid	50
G W. McGinnis, paid	50
A. J. Reeves, sub	5 00
Mt. Lebanon Church, sub	5 00
G. W. Gravler, sub	5 00

G. W. Ashcraft, paid	50
Siloam Church, sub.	5 00
Harmony Grove Church, sub	5 00
J. E. Cox, paid	50
John A. South, paid	50
J. E. Wilson, paid	10
Cash for D. W. Andrews, paid to I. W. Moore	3 50
Cash for A. M. King, paid to J. B. Ferguson	3 75
Cash for Bro. Owings, paid to J. Taylor	1 00

LITERATURE.

29. Report read, discussed and adopted as follows, to wit.:

Your Committee on Literature, having taken into consideration the great importance of taking and reading our denominational literature, do most heartily commend to the favorable consideration of our people the *Alabama Beptist*, edited by Bro. J. J. D. Renfroe, as a faithful exponent of Baptist doctrines and a good family newspaper

For our children we recommend "*Kind Words*" and the "*Child's Gem*" and the lesson helps published by Kind Words Publication Society, at Atlanta, Ga., as well also as the papers and lesson helps printed by the American Baptist Publication Society, at 1420 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, Penn.

These papers and lesson helps for Sunday schools range in price from 10 to 50 cents a year, thus coming within the reach of all, and no Baptist need fear to place thece papers in the hands of his child so far as concerns the doctrines and principles taught therein.

We also insist that it is the duty of our brethren to guard more carefully the reading matter of their children. Dime novels should be avoided as the bite of the poisonous adder.

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. Gravlee, Ch'n.

30. Letter of Correspondence read and adopted as follows, viz:

The New River Baptist Association to her sister associations with whom we are in correspondence, sendeth Christian salutation. Our present session is now in pleasant and peaceful progress, and it is to be hoped that much good in the cause of our blessed master may result from the efforts of our present session. We ask an interest in the prayers of all God's people that we may be enabled to labor more effectually for the cause and spread of the gospel truths abroad. We gladly welcome your correspondents and your messengers who are with us. We return correspondents, as shown in the minutes of this session. The next session of our association will be held with Friendship church, 10 miles north of Fayette Court House, commencing Saturday before 2d Sabbath in October, 1887, on which occasion we hope to meet many of your ministers and brethren.

And now may the Great Head of the Church rule and reign in all our hearts and direct us by his spirit that we may be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ is our prayer.

L. C. Shirley, Cor. Sec.

31. Finance report read and adopted as follows, viz:

Received for Minutes	$29 65
Received for Associational purposes	13 85
	$43 50

Respectfully submitted,
THOS. L. MONTGOMERY, Ch'n.

32. Sabbath School report read, discussed and adopted as follows, to wit:

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report as follows: During the past year, under direction of last session, we have held Sunday school conventions at Fayette Court House and at Concord, and made an appointment for one at Mount Olive on the 5th Sabbath in August, which failed of success for want of sufficient notice among the people of that neighborhood.

We did not begin these meetings until the 5th Sunday in May, because of the very severe winter and the busy spring that followed, making it, as we thought, inexpedient to begin an experiment that might have its permanent effect either for or against the Sunday school cause.

Our meetings at Fayette Court House and Concord, we are happy to report, have resulted in much good to this excellent work. They were both largely attended by the young people of the respective communities, who listened attentively to the various subjects discussed, such as: The Origin of Sabbath schools, the design of Sabbath schools, the Sabbath school—what it is and what it ought to be, the lesson helps—their uses and abuses, who should engage in the Sabbath school work, how to organize and conduct the Sabbath school, the relation of church and Sabbrth school, the duties responsibilities and rewards of the Sabbath school work, etc.

These discussions, in the hearing of the young people, who are soon to take our places on the stage of life, and into whose hand the church, with all its fostered objects, is soon to fall, cannot fail to impress the Sabbath school work upon their minds as part and parcel of church work (where it properly belongs) and will in future days, like seeds sown in good ground, spring up and bear an abundant harvest.

It is impossible from the meagre reports to give satisfactory stasistics. Many schools have not been represented, and others fail to report fully. Upon the whole, however, the outlook is encouraging. The Sunday school idea is slowly but surely getting a firm grasp on the minds and hearts of our people. Opposition is fast giving way, and if we only push forward the good work already begun, we need have no fears for the future.

Paul, we remember, planted, Appollus waited and God gave the increase. So let us plant and pray, and by the help of God the increase will surely come.

Respectfully submitted by the Committee,
J. H. MCGUIRE, Ch'n.
G. W. GRAVLEE.
M. D. KILLINSWORTH.
SILAS M. WALDROP,
J. S. WHITE.

33. Nominations report read and adopted as follows, to wit:

We, your Committee on Nominations, beg leave to make following report:

Elder J. B. Ferguson to preach the introductory sermon, G. W. Gravlee, alternate

Elder J. B. Huckabee to preach at 11 a. m. Sabbath, J. S. Shirley, alternate.

Mission Board—L. C. Shirley, chairman, Samuel Applin, W. W. Waldrop, D. G. Kirklan, John Newton, Frank Wilson, J. M. Spann.

Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers—J. H. Yerby, chairman. James Agerton, S. M. Renfroe.

Committee on Ministerial Education—Elder G. W. Gravlee, chairman, Z. Savage, W. A. Graham.

The 17th session of the New River Association will be held with Friendship church, 10 miles north of Fayette Court House, on Saturday before the 2d Sabbath in October, 1887.

Commirtee on Sabbath schools—W. B. Melton, chairman, J. H. McGuire, J. M. Spann, John Newton, W. A. Huckabee, J. F. Willis, W. F. Kirkland Frank Wilson.

34. DOCUMENTS.

Report read and adopted as follows, to wit:

Your Committee on Documents report having examined the reports from all the churches. We find nothing claiming our special attention further than large ingeatherings by baptisms are reported, and they are generally from churches having Sunday schools, while but one church reported Sunday schools where there has not been quite an ingathering; and they have been without a pastor.

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. Gravlee, Ch'n.

35. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

1. *Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of the standing committee on Sabbath schools to appoint and hold Sunday school conventions hereafter each associational year, on each 5th Sabbath, in different parts of the association for the discussiod of such subjects on the Sabbath school work as they may deem best.

2. *Resolved*, That the place of the meetings of this body hereafter be appointed by the district meetings alternately.

3. *Resolved*, That the Clerk superintend the printing of as many minutes as the minute fund will pay for, and distribute them among the churches; and also receive ten dollars of the associational fund for his services, and use any other fund on hand, if needed, for printing any matter needed.

4. *Resolved*, That this body tender their most sincere thanks to the church and citizens of Fayette Court House for their very kind and liberal hospitality during the present session of this body, and also to our Methodist brethren for their kind offer of their house of worship during our present session.

36. The Minutes were then read, approved and signed, whereupon

37. After prayer and singing the parting hymn "There will be no night in heaven," while the bretheren extended

the parting hand, the body adjourned to meet again with Friendship church, 10 miles north of Fayette Court House on Saturday preceding the second Lord's day in October, 1887.

J. B. Ferguson, Moderator.

J. H. McGuire, Clerk.

STATISTICS OF NEW RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, ALABAMA, 1886

Churches.	Counties.	Pastors.	Clerks.	Clerks' Post Offices.	Membership last Reported.	Increase by: Baptism.	Letter.	Experience.	Restoration.	Decrease by: Letter.	Exclusion.	Erasure.	Death.	Present Membership.	Sunday School: Officers and Teachers.	Pupils.	Volumes in Library.	Preaching Sabbaths.	Reports Prayer Meeting.	Reports Revival.
Fayetteville	Fayette		F. A. Nuckols	Fayette C. H.	43						1			42	5	45				
Sipsey Valley	"	S. M. White	G. W. Baker	Newtonville		3	10	14		9			2	29				1		
Shepherd	"	G. W. Gravlee	J. L. Patterson	Newtonville	46	6				2				44				3		
Friendship	"	J. S. Shirley.	J. H. Meharg	Ballard	31	12	15						1	58				4		
Mt. Lebanan	"	G. W. Gravlee	J. W. Graham	Fayette C. H.	94	3	1			4			3	89	5	20		1		
Mt. Joy	"	N. J. Dyer	M.D. Killingsworth	Ballard	54								1	54						
Oak Ridge	"	E. Howell	C. R. Davis	Pilgrim	41					1			1	39						
Concord	"	J. M. Chism	W. B. Melton	Ridge	180	7	10		2	9	1		1	189	4	75				
Chapel Hill	"	J. M. Chism	G. W. Ashcraft	Cave Springs	63	1	1		1	2	3			59				3		
Rocky Mount	"	N. J. Dyer	J. R. Agerton	Fayette C. H.	56		2			4				46						
Pilgrims Rest	"	G. W. Gravlee	J. T. Yerby	Pilgrim	47	7	1			2	2			52				2		
Harmony Grove	"	J. S. Shirley	M. C. Bowling	Palo	98	11			2	4	2		2	104	1	34				
Meadow Branch	"	J. M. Chism	W. J. Trull	Kingville	43	3	1		1	1	2			43						
Friendship	Tuskaloosa	R. J. Mayfield	J. P. Watson	North River	53	2			2	3	1		3	64				2		
Mt. Olive	Fayette	N. J. Dyer	T. C. Morton	Fayette C. H.	81		2			3	1			79						
Shady Grove	"	Wm. Akin	T. L. Montgomery	Willingham	75	2	1		1	9	2			68	1	26				
Mt. Pisgah	"	Wm. G Baker	James Trawick	Willingham	30	11	2		1					41	1	*				
Union	"	Wm. G. Baker	J. S. Hallingsworth	New River	21		1	1	1	3				24						
Mt. Pleasant	"	W. J. Akin	L. T. Hocutt	Davis Creek	65		1	6	3		1			75	8	20				
Salem	Tuskaloosa	W. J. Akin	W. F. Dawson	New Lexington		15	7		3	8	2		1	64				2		
Oak Grove	Fayette	J. Taylor	W. A. Weeks	Ur	47	11	2			8	2			42	2	*				
Pleasant Hill	"	J. E. Cox	M. E. Chambliss	Sipsey Station	54	2	4			3										
Arbor Springs	Tuskaloosa	J. B. Ferguson	J. W. Falls	Samantha	36	13	4			1				50	1	*				
Siloam	Fayette	J. Taylor	R. H. Erwin	Mt. Calm	24	2								20	1	*				
Union	Marion	J. Taylor	W. M. Weeks	Caudle		1	2			4	6		1	45						
New Hope	"	J. N. Dickenson	A. H. Franks			14		1						24				3		
Total					1184	1 2	67	24	17	0			16	1450	32					

New Hope and Sipsey Valley churches were organized during year. *Pupils not reported.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF THE NEW RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Churches.	Home Missions.	Church Building (not at home.)	Foreign Missions.	State Missions.	Indigent Ministers	Bible and Colportage.	Ministerial Education.			Minutes.	Associational Purposes.	Sunday School.		Women's Society.			Ministerial Educ'n		Total.	Pastor's Salary.	Repairs, Fuel, The Poor, etc.	Value of Building and Furniture.	Value of Chapel and Parsonage.
							Colored Students.	Howard College.	Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.			Benevolence.	School Expenses,	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions								
Fayetteville	2 00			24 65	2 00					1 00	3 00		15 15									$5000 00	
Sipsey Valley										65													
Shepherd										1 25	75												
Friendship										1 00	50												
Mt. Lebanon				10 25	3 95					1 50	50												
Mt. Joy										1 00	50												
Oak Ridge										1 00	50												
Concord										1 55	1 00												
Chapel Hill										1 50	75												
Rocky Mount										70	40									28 00			
Pilgrims Rest																							
Harmony Grove					6 00					2 00	50												
Meadow Branch				8 00						1 25	75									50 00			
Friendship, Tusk'a Co					4 00					1 50	50												
Mt. Olive, Fayette Co										1 05	1 00												
Shady Grove, "										1 05	60												
Mt. Pisgah										1 00	52												
Union, Fayette Co.										50	35												
Mt. Pleasant										1 50	1 00												
Salem										1 00	50												
Oak Grove										75	30												
Pleasant Hill										1 00	50												
Arbor Springs			2 50	6 00	10 00					1 50	50									40 00			
Siloam										1 00	30												
Union, Marion Co										1 50	50												
New Hope										1 00	50												
Collections at Ass'ns				50 00	42 30												15 00						
Total	$2 00		$2 50	$88 90	$67 25					$29 65	$13 85		$15 15				$15 00			118 00		$5000 00	

THE ALABAMA BAPTIST

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